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INCREASING COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES AMONG MIDDLE EASTERN ARMENIANS

The cultural, educational, and propaganda sections of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Armenian SSR recently made extensive plans to develop and foster closer relations between the Armenian communities in the Arab countries of the Middle East and the Armenian SSR.

In Yerevan, on 20 November 1952, a special committee was appointed for this purpose, with headquarters located at the Academy of Sciences, Armenian SSR. The chairman of the committee is Kurken Poryan, a poet, and its activities are under the sponsorship of Dr Victor Hampartsemlan, the president of the academy, and Kevork VI, Supreme Catholicos of all Armenians.

It is expected that the committee will try to bring under its influence the Armenian churches, libraries, museums, and welfare and religious organizations of the Middle East.

It is obvious that, as usual, these activities are being undertaken under Kremlin orders to thwart the free world in its endeavor to organize and develop the economy of the Middle East on a sound basis.

Now the Kremlin has decided to use the prestige of the president of the Academy of Sciences Armenian SSR and the Supreme Catholicos of Echmiadzin to interfere in the life of the Armenian community in Syria and Lebanon and to sow discord, dissatisfaction, and unrest there. One of the reasons for these machinations is the vacancy of the seat of the Catholicos of Cilicia. The Communists have decided to use every trick to elect their man to this high and influential post. They are not only mobilizing all the Communists and fellow travelers in Syria and Lebanon but are trying to use all the welfare and religious organizations to defeat the anti-Communist forces of the Armenian communities in these two countries. As a first step in this direction, since last December, the Armenian Communist cells in Syria and Lebanon have started to organize local committees in the Armenian communities, with the objective of establishing closer relations with the Armenian SSR. However, the efforts of these cultural committees and Communist agents will be fruitless, because the majority of the Armenians know quite well what Communism means, and they are fighting with all their might against the USSR's greed for power and domination.

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